

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 22, 26, 28, 29, 31, 35, and 44 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus capable of outputting an image based on data for output generated by an external apparatus on a recording medium, comprising:

a sending unit adapted to send, from the image forming apparatus to ~~an~~ the external apparatus, acquisition information for acquiring data and layout information necessary for assigning an image based on the data to the recording medium having a predetermined size so as to cause the external apparatus to acquire the data in accordance with the sent acquisition information and generate data for output ~~which,~~ wherein the image based on the data for output can be accommodated in the predetermined size based on the acquired data and the sent layout information, the layout information including information on the recording medium having the predetermined size; and

an acquisition unit adapted to acquire the data for output generated by the external apparatus.

2. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the acquisition information for acquiring the data is information for identifying the data.

3. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the information for identifying the data is represented by URI.

4. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a reception unit adapted to receive a print instruction including the acquisition information indicating the position of storage of data and the layout information,

wherein said sending unit sends to the external apparatus the acquisition information and the layout information included in the print instruction received by said reception unit.

5. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said acquisition unit acquires the data for output through a network.

6. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the layout information ~~includes~~ on the recording medium is information indicating a sheet size or a layout direction.

7. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the layout information is information designating a page and said acquisition unit acquires the data for output corresponding to the designated page.

8. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the structured description language is XML or HTML.

9. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus is a printing apparatus.

10. (Currently Amended) An image forming system comprised of an image forming apparatus capable of outputting an image based on data for output generated by an external apparatus on a recording medium and ~~an~~ the external apparatus for executing a conversion process of data described with a structured description language, the system comprising:

a sending unit, provided in said image forming apparatus, adapted to send, from said image forming apparatus to said external apparatus, acquisition information for acquiring data and layout information necessary for assigning an image based on the data to the recording medium having a predetermined size, the layout information including information on the recording medium;

an acquisition unit, provided in said external apparatus, adapted to acquire the data based on the acquisition information sent by said sending unit;

a conversion unit, provided in said external apparatus, adapted to convert the data acquired by said acquisition unit to the data for output ~~which~~, wherein the image based on the data for output can be accommodated in the predetermined size based on the layout information sent by said sending unit;

a transfer unit, provided in said external apparatus, adapted to transfer the data for output converted by said conversion unit from said external apparatus to said image forming apparatus; and

an output unit, provided in said image forming apparatus, adapted to output an image on the recording medium by analyzing the data for output transferred by said transfer unit.

11. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus capable of outputting an image based on data for output generated by an external apparatus on a recording medium, comprising:

a reception unit adapted to receive layout information required for assigning an image based on data to a recording medium having a first size, the received layout information including information on the recording medium having the first size;

a changing unit adapted to change the layout information received by said reception unit to layout information assigning an image based on the data to a recording

medium having a second size different from the first size, the changed layout information including information on the recording medium having the second size;

a sending unit adapted to send, from the image forming apparatus to ~~an~~ the external apparatus, the layout information changed by said changing unit so as to cause the external apparatus to generate data for output ~~which~~, wherein the image based on the data for output can be accommodated in the second size based on the sent layout information; and

an acquisition unit adapted to acquire the data for output generated by the external apparatus.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the ~~layout~~ information on the recording medium is information indicating a sheet size.

14. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus capable of outputting an image based on data for output generated by an external apparatus on a recording medium, comprising:

a reception unit adapted to receive a print instruction;

a determination unit adapted to determine layout information required for assigning an image based on data to the recording medium having a predetermined size, if said reception unit receives the print instruction without any layout information for the data, the layout information including information on the recording medium having the predetermined size;

a sending unit adapted to send, from the image forming apparatus to ~~an~~ the external apparatus, the layout information determined by said determination unit so as to cause the external apparatus to generate data for output ~~which,~~ wherein the image based on the data for output can be accommodated in the predetermined size based on the sent layout information; and

an acquisition unit adapted to acquire the data for output generated by the external apparatus.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the ~~layout~~ information on the recording medium is information indicating a sheet size.

17. (Currently Amended) An image forming method in an image forming apparatus for outputting an image based on data for output generated by an external apparatus on a recording medium, comprising the steps of:

sending, from the image forming apparatus to ~~an~~ the external apparatus, acquisition information for acquiring data and layout information necessary for assigning an image based on the data to the recording medium having a predetermined size so as to cause the external apparatus to acquire the data in accordance with the sent acquisition information and generate data for output ~~which,~~ wherein the image based on the data for output can be accommodated in the predetermined size based on the acquired data and the sent layout information, the layout information including information on the recording medium having the predetermined size; and

acquiring data for output generated by the external apparatus.

18. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to claim 17, wherein the acquisition information for acquiring the data is information for identifying the data.

19. (Original) An image forming method according to claim 18, wherein the information for identifying the data is represented by URI.

20. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to claim 17, further comprising steps of:

receiving a print instruction including the acquisition information indicating the position of storage of data and the layout information; and

sending to the external apparatus the acquisition information and the layout information included in the print instruction received in said receiving step.

21. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to claim 17, wherein the data for output are acquired through a network.

22. (Currently Amended) An image forming method according to claim 17, wherein the layout information ~~includes~~ on the recording medium is information indicating a sheet size or a layout direction.

23. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to claim 17, wherein the layout information is information designating a page and there are acquired the data for output corresponding to the designated page.

24. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to claim 41, wherein the structured description language is XML or HTML.



25. (Original) An image forming method according to claim 17, wherein said method is realized in a printing apparatus.

26. (Currently Amended) An image forming method in an image forming apparatus for outputting an image based on data for output generated by an external apparatus on a recording medium, comprising the steps of:

receiving layout information required for assigning an image based on data to a recording medium having a first size, the received layout information including information on the recording medium having the first size;

changing the received layout information to layout information assigning an image based on the data to a recording medium having a second size different from the first size, the changed layout information including information on the recording medium having the second size;

sending, from the image forming apparatus to ~~an~~ the external apparatus, the changed layout information so as to cause the external apparatus to generate data for output ~~which,~~ wherein the image based on the data for output can be accommodated in the second size based on the sent layout information; and

acquiring the data for output generated by the external apparatus.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) An image forming method according to claim 26, wherein the ~~layout~~ information on the recording medium is information indicating a sheet size.

29. (Currently Amended) An image forming method in an image forming apparatus for outputting an image based on data for output generated by an external apparatus on a recording medium, comprising the steps of:

receiving a print instruction;

determining layout information required for assigning an image based on data to the recording medium having a predetermined size, if the print instruction is received without any layout information for the data, the layout information including information on the recording medium having the predetermined size;

sending, from the image forming apparatus to an external apparatus, the determined layout information so as to cause the external apparatus to generate data for output ~~which,~~ wherein the image based on the data for output can be accommodated in the predetermined size based on the sent layout information; and

acquiring the data for output generated by the external apparatus.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) An image forming method according to claim 29, wherein the ~~layout~~ information on the recording medium is information indicating a sheet size.

32.-34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) A program to be executed by an image forming apparatus capable of outputting an image based on data for output generated by an external apparatus on a recording medium, the program comprising:

sending, from the image forming apparatus to ~~an~~ the external apparatus, acquisition information for acquiring data and layout information necessary for assigning an image based on the data to the recording medium having a predetermined size so as to cause the external apparatus to acquire the data in accordance with the sent acquisition information and generate data for output ~~which~~, wherein the image based on the data for output can be accommodated in the predetermined size based on the acquired data and the sent layout information, the layout information including information on the recording medium having the predetermined size; and

an acquisition step of acquiring the data for output generated by the external apparatus.

36.-37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the data acquired in accordance with the acquisition information is described with a structured description language.

39. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the external apparatus generates the data for output based on data described with a structured description language and the sent layout information.

40. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the external apparatus generates the data for output based on data described with a structured description language and the sent layout information.

41. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to Claim 17, wherein the data acquired in accordance with the acquisition information is described with a structured description language.

42. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to Claim 26, wherein the external apparatus generates the data for output based on data described with a structured description language and the sent layout information.

43. (Previously Presented) An image forming method according to Claim 29, wherein the external apparatus generates the data for output based on data described with a structured description language and the sent layout information.

44. (Currently Amended) An image outputting apparatus capable of outputting an image based on data for output generated by an external apparatus, comprising:

a sending unit adapted to send, from the image outputting apparatus to ~~an~~ the external apparatus, acquisition information for acquiring data and layout information necessary for assigning an image based on the data to a specific size so as to cause the external apparatus to acquire the data in accordance with the sent acquisition information and generate data for output ~~which~~, wherein the image based on the data for output can be accommodated in the specific size based on the acquired data and the sent layout information, the layout information indicating the specific size; and

an acquisition unit adapted to acquire the data for output generated by the external apparatus.

45. (Previously Presented) An image outputting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the layout information includes information indicating the specific size.